

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497

INFO AMEMBAY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1683

DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IRN UR

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ALEXEI KOSYGIN ARRIVES TEHRAN TO ATTEND
INAUGURATION OF SOVIET ENGINEERED STEEL MILL

SUMMARY: USSR PREMIER KOSYGIN ARRIVED TEHRAN MARCH 14 HEADING
LARGE ECONOMIC DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURATION OF
ARYAMEHR STEEL MILL BUILT WITH SOVIET COOPERATION. NEWS MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTED VISIT AND STRESSED KOSYGIN STATEMENT OF HIS COUNTRY'S
DESIRE EXPAND FRIENDLY IRANO- SOVIET RELATIONS. DURING THREE- DAY
VISIT PRESS ANTICIPATES THAT A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS MAY
BE CONCLUDED. SELECTION OF KOSYGIN TO HEAD DELEGATION IS LAST MINUTE
SURPRISE DESIGNED TO FLATTER IRAN AND RECOUP SOME OF GROUND
RECENTLY
LOST OVER SUCH INCIDENTS AS IRAQ CAPER WITH SOVIET ARMS.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN'S ARRIVAL IN TEHRAN MARCH 14 TO
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PARTICIPATE IN INAUGURATION MARCH 16 OF THE ARYAMEHR STEEL MILL NEAR ISFAHAN BUILT WITH SOVIET COOPERATION, HIGHLIGHTED BY NEWS MEDIA. PRESS MARCH 15 REPORTED KOSYGIN ACCOMPANIED BY LARGE ECONOMIC DELEGATION, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPUTY SEMEN KOZYREV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS ILLIADOR KOULEV, AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF ASSEMBLY AND SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION WORK OF USSR IYAN MEKRIUKOV.

2. DURING BANQUET HOSTED BY GOI PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, KOSYGIN IN FORMAL ADDRESS STRESSED THE SOVIETS' DESIRE TO EXPAND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE, HE SAID, ARE GLAD THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS AND ARE DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO STRENGTHEN THESE TIES. INTER ALIA KOSYGIN STATED: REAL SECURITY CANNOT BE CREATED ON BASIS OF ARMS RACE, BUT IS FEASIBLE THROUGH MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING; SOVIET UNION'S RELATIONS WITH IRAN FOUNDED ON BASIS OF EQUALITY, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND NON-INTERVENTION; IRAN AND SOVIET UNION DESIRE APPLICATION OF SEPTEMBER 1967 UN RESOLUTION IN SETTLEMENT OF ARAB- ISRAELI DISPUTE; POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE COULD NEVER BE COMPLETE WITHOUT ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE; THE KIND OF COOPERATION EXISTING BETWEEN IRAN AND SOVIET UNION HELPS ALL NATIONS SOLVE THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MORE QUICKLY; IT NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR ANY COUNTRY TO BASE ITS POLICY ON LOOTING OTHER NATIONS; AND THE SOVIET UNION'S POLICY IS BASED ON AN ALL- AROUND EXPANSION OF TIES OF COOPERATION WITH ALL ASIAN NATIONS. KOSYGIN SAID THE USSR WOULD DO WHATEVER WAS IN ITS POWER TO REDUCE TENSION IN ASIA AND TO SRENGTHEN PEACE AND SECURITY OF ALL ASIAN COUNTRIES. EXPANDING ON THE LATTER POINT, KOSYGIN SAID "ONCE AGAIN WE DECLARE OUR READINESS TO EMBARK UPON JOINT EFFORTS IN THIS RESPECT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND ESPECIALLY THE NEIGHBORING ONES". SEMI-OFFICIAL KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL CONSIDERED THIS REMARK TO BE A "REVIVAL" OF THE USSR'S STANDING CALL FOR A CONFERENCE ON ASIAN SECURITY, BUT CONSIDERS IT UNLIKELY THIS SUBJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED IN ANY DEPTH SINCE "MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN TO BE SOLVED BEFORE THE IDEA CAN WIN LARGER SUPPORT IN THE CONTINENT".

3. HOVEYDA IN HIS REMARKS WELCOMED AN EXPANSION OF FRIENDLY TIES BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN TH TWO COUNTIRES, NOTED IRAN- SOVIET RELATIONS FORTUNATELY PERVADED BY MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION, CITED THE ARYAMEHR STEEL MILL AS AN EXAMPLE OF IRANO- SOVIET COOPERATION AND EXPRESSED

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ADMIRATION FOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOVIET PEOPLE IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS.

4. DURING THE THREE- DAY VISIT PRESS ANTICIPATES A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC ACCORDS WILL BE CONCLUDED (ATTRIBJYED TO A " TOP SOVIET SOURCE"), INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT FOR SOVIETS TO EXPAND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF ARYAMEHR STEEL MILL TO FOUR MILLION TONS PER YEAR, REVISION OF THE PRICE AND INCREASED EXPORTS OF IRANIAN NATURAL GAS SUPPLIED THE SOVIET UNION AND A POSSIBLE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A JOINT HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX ON THE ATRAK RIVER. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT NEWSPAPERS EXPECT DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE THE SUBCONTINENT AND ARAB- ISRAEL DISPUTE. ONE NEWSPAPER (KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL) REPORTS IRAN IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE SEEKING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR EARLY REPATRIATION OF PAKISTANI WAR PRISONERS IN INDIA.

5. KOSYGIN IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THE SHAH TODAY (MARCH 15) AND CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GOI OFFICIALS.

COMMENT: THE LARGE SOVIET DELEGATION HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN EVINCES THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES TO FURTHERING ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAN. FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF ARMS IN THE IRAQI EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD AND THE EN-SUING ALLEGATIONS OF SOVIET INTEREST IN THE MOVEMENT OF THESE ARMS, WHICH IT INTIMATED WERE POSSIBLY DESTINED FOR IRAN, THERE WAS NOTABLE COOLNESS ON PART OF GOI IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS SOVIET UNION. SENDING HIGH SOVIET OFFICIAL, TO ATTEND STEEL MILL INAUGURATION, IN OUR OPINION, SHOWS SOVIET DESIRE, AT THIS STAGE, TO TILT A BIT TOWARDS IRAN VIS- A- VIS IRAQ. SELECTION OF KOSYGIN TO HEAD DELEGATION IS LAST MINUTE SURPRISE. WE ARE REASON-ABLY CERTAIN THAT AS OF TWO DAYS AGO RANKING GOI OFFICIALS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS VISIT. BOTH GOI AND SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN EXPECTED WORKING LEVEL DELEGATION.

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